

LOS TIEMPOS

September 2025

Our Purpose

Jesus Christ calls us to be a joyful community that celebrates God's love, transforms lives, and is a force for justice in the world.

We Welcome All

St. Mark's is a community of believers and seekers committed to being queer-affirming and anti-racist, reflecting the love and justice of Jesus Christ. We are a place where people of all ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, and abilities are welcomed, celebrated for their gifts, and invited to share in God's embrace.

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday | 9am–12pm

Office closed and staff observe Sabbath on Fridays



Find @StMarksAZ on social media!



FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

OVER THE COURSE OF THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS, I have been part of an ecumenical group of Protestant clergy which gathered to consider responses to the national crisis taking place in our country. The first collective action the group decided upon was a written statement bearing witness to the Christian faith and denouncing those policies and decisions that are in direct opposition to the teachings of Jesus.

Over these last several weeks, this statement has been gaining more and more signatures by clergy in Southern Arizona. The hope is to have this statement published in regional newspapers and other media.

It has also been encouraged that supporting clergy read this statement in their congregations. I plan to share this statement in worship on Sunday, September 7. That same day, following the worship service, I will also hold a feedback session for church members to share their thoughts and have conversation around the content of the statement.

The statement, entitled “For God so Loved the World: A Christian Witness Against Harm,” is included here in this Issue of Los Tiempos for your information.

Of course, the hope and prayer is that our engagement in resisting harm and wrong does not end with a statement. Clearly, we people of faith are called to act for the cause of justice and love. But the statement is a first step, an important step, in bearing witness to the truth in a society that is saturated with lies and distortions—especially regarding what it means to walk faithfully the way of Jesus.

Blessings,

Tracy



Rev. Tracy Daub (she/her)
Transition Pastor
tracy@stmarksaz.org

For God So Loved the World: *A Christian Witness Against Harm*

[Read the statement online and see the full list of signers here](#)

Cover photo:
A summer sunset In
Tucson

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD: A CHRISTIAN WITNESS AGAINST HARM

By: Christian Ministerium of Southern Arizona

In May 2025, a grassroots movement of clergy in Southern Arizona came together as an ecumenical working group—pastors, deacons, active and retired—committed to offering a clear, public Christian witness in response to a deepening national crisis. As our first collective action, we have drafted a statement addressing urgent events unfolding in our nation and world. We now invite other clergy across Southern Arizona to add their names to this statement and to consider joining this growing movement for continued witness and action rooted in the way of Jesus.

As faith leaders representing a spectrum of Christian traditions, we write with an urgent call to Christians to speak out for the way of Jesus and against devastation being done to our neighbors and planet. As faith leaders, we bear witness daily to the teaching of Jesus Christ—a message grounded in love and compassion that provides wisdom for humans seeking to live in respectful relationship with God's creation and one another.

Clergy have too often been complicit or silent in times of crisis. We are negligent if we remain so now. We do not speak for all Christians, nor do we represent everyone in our faith communities. We preach, lead and act in diverse ways, yet we have found a collective voice and are compelled now to speak in opposition to the harmful policies and actions we are witnessing in our nation, including by the President of the United States, the Administration, elected officials, judges, and the public, including people identifying as Christian.

Jesus' way of love leads us to see worth, dignity, and opportunity in all. Jesus repaired divisions, welcomed outsiders, and retained traditions that guide how we live together. Jesus gathered people to address injustices and harm, explicitly lifting up the poor and vulnerable, prioritizing compassion and empathy. Our nation's leaders have not often prioritized those on the margins. Since Inauguration Day of this year, we have witnessed a dizzying number of harmful policies, practices, and rhetoric. Although deceptively clothed in Christian language and symbolism, these actions invert Jesus' ministry and teachings.

We commit to a message of hope in response to the following specific actions of this current administration. These actions are daily assaults against God's beloved creation, including human decency, and especially including persons on the margins and most vulnerable. God's way of freedom, justice, and love is a path forward for all people. Instead of division, we can work together to help workers, families, and communities thrive. Instead of scarcity, we can work together to encourage growth and flourishing for people and the planet.

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

“For God so loved the whole world” describes God’s dream for humanity, in contrast to the scapegoating, fear and intimidation that characterize this administration. Therefore, we denounce the following:

- people being taken, imprisoned, and deported without due process
- the criminalization of workers and children without reason
- immigration raids that bring daily fear to families and communities

“God created the world and called it good” describes God’s dream for creation. Therefore, we denounce the following:

- ecological irresponsibility that imperils God's Earth and all who inhabit it
- the use of retaliation and name-calling to suppress the freedom of expression among individuals and institutions in this country
- the inherent racism in efforts to ban books, end diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, and distort the truthful teaching of our nation's history
- the bullying and discriminatory practices aimed at LGBTQ individuals, especially children

“For the least of these” is Jesus’ vision of a world where people are free to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and respect the humanity of those imprisoned (Matthew 25:31-46). Therefore, we denounce the following and more:

- cutting Medicaid and health insurance, essential to the wellbeing of millions of people
- closing our nation’s borders to people seeking haven from genuine harm;
- sweeping travel and visa bans that categorize people as potential threats;
- the efforts to unconstitutionally withhold citizenship from children born in this country
- gutting of USAID and other international humanitarian assistance; which has already resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of children worldwide
- the withholding of billions of dollars of federal funds to educational institutions which are essential for vital research

We call ourselves to account and invite others into practices of bold mercy, justice, and compassion. With our words and actions, we will work for the common good of Earth and its inhabitants. We call on our nation’s leaders and community members of all faith traditions and life experiences to receive the wisdom of God's sacred teaching.

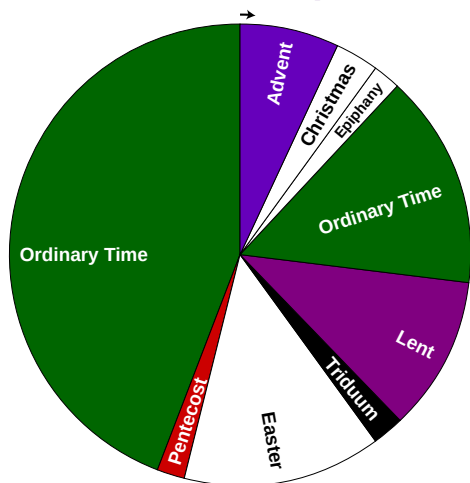
THIS IS ST. MARK'S

Faith Formation invites you to our fall learning series, **This is St. Mark's!** Join us after worship for fun conversations about who we are as a church from our external public theological witness to our worship to the physical space of our labyrinth. There will be light snacks served.

September 7: Responding to Current Times

Pastor Tracy will introduce the clergy statement (*Pg. 3 & 4*) and lead a conversation about how to be theologically grounded in these unprecedented times.

September 28 & October 5: Liturgical Calendar & Reformed Worship



Pastor Tracy will lead these classes on the meaning of our liturgical calendar and elements of our Reformed worship. These classes will focus on the meaning behind the liturgical calendar notations and answer the questions like “What is ordinary time?” and “Why is Pentecost an entire series?” as well as do we really need to confess every Sunday? Bring your large and small questions about worship!

October 12: Origins of St. Mark's Charge

Kevin Hainline, elder for worship and Pastor Tracy will explore the origins of our charge and guide our reflection of the words we use to close our weekly services.

October 26: Big Coffee & the St. Mark's Labyrinth

Big Coffee in the Garden and exploration of our labyrinth. Joeine Greene and Pat Turnbull will help us explore the meaning behind our labyrinth. Did you know St. Mark's had a labyrinth? Why do Christians find strength in the spiritual practice of walking the labyrinth? Is this spiritual practice a good fit for me?

For more information about the series, see Pastor Tracy or any member of the Faith Formation team.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

St. Mark's! Let's get ready for
TIHAN POZ CAFE
SEPTEMBER 18
at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

ASSEMBLE CARE PACKAGES

1-2 people, 8 - 9:30 a.m.

LUNCHEON SET UP, GUEST CHECK IN,
MEAL SERVING, AND CLEAN UP

4-6 people, 9:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

NOTE: This involves a good amount of
standing and walking

WE NEED DONATIONS!

BRING TO CHURCH NARTHEX/LOBBY:

- Dishsoap (16 oz. or less) - 50 NEEDED
- Lotion (8-12 oz.) - 150 NEEDED
- Lip balm - 150 NEEDED

GIVE TO STEPHANIE:

\$15 gift cards (Fry's, Safeway, Walmart, or
Target) - 5 NEEDED

Contact Stephanie Mitchell

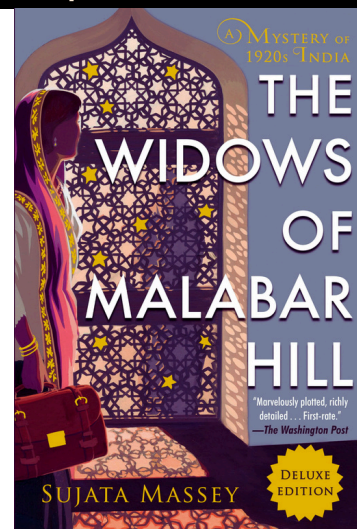
thundermitchell@gmail.com 520.271.4990

Book Club - September 4 & 18

The Book Club meets
biweekly on Thursdays
at 11:00AM in the Office
Conference Room. The
September meetings are
the 4th & 18.

Continuing the book, *The
Widows of Malabar Hill* by
Sujata Massey.

If you would like to suggest
a book, attend, or have any
questions,
please contact [Pat
Williams](#)

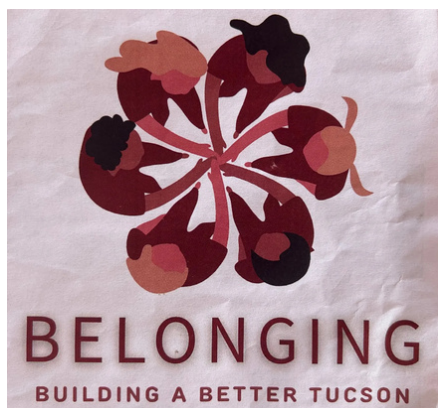


*"The setting is early 20th century Mumbai (Bombay), India in
the days of the Raj and is about a young woman from a
respected Zoroastrian family trained to be a lawyer but
limited by the inability of women to actually be court lawyers.
(Other types of legal work were allowed.)
The first of a trilogy by Sujata Massey."*



On August 14, I had the honor of attending the Iskashitaa Odyssey Storytelling Event as a guest of one of the storytellers, my friend and boss In the Refugee Education Program at Pima Community College, Sara Haghighi.

In addition to Sara, 5 other speakers told their stories. Experiences In their home countries, their journeys to Tucson, and what they are working towards now for continued belonging, and supporting the belonging of others. The links below offer everyone a chance to hear and read a reflection on the event, and the Important topic of supporting refugees and Immigrants now more than ever.
-Elaina Richards



SUNDAY SUPPER CHANGES

Our monthly neighborhood dinner, Second Sunday Supper, is going through some changes!

NEW Date: Sunday Supper will now be on the **FOURTH Sunday of the month!**
NEW Location: 4th Sunday Supper will be held In the **Knox Room & Patio on 3rd Street**

After a very hot summer, and with the knowledge that food Insecurity can be greater at the end of the month, the St. Mark's Community & Global Engagement Team have decided to make the date and time changes to provide better continuity and shelter from the elements.



The Knox Room patio at sunset, with string lights and the grill

On the 3rd Sunday of every month, a St. Mark's member or friend will have a sign-up sheet after worship for folks to share what they will bring to 4th Sunday Supper.

On **September 21st**, find **Caroline Rondeau at the Opportunities Table after worship to sign up to bring an Item** to offer at our neighborhood dinner. Main dishes, sides, snacks, and drinks are always appreciated.

If you are Interested In getting more Involved with the support of 4th Sunday Supper, please contact [Martha Osborne](#)

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

August 2025 Session Highlights Margaret Wilkie, Clerk of Session

Session met on Aug **5, 2025** for its monthly stated meeting.

CLERK'S REPORT & THE WIDER CHURCH - Margaret Wilkie

- Session remembered JoAnn Geisert, a long-time member of St. Mark's, who passed away on July 10, 2025, at the age of 96. JoAnn served as a Deacon and in many other capacities at St. Mark's. Her family was her top priority. She is survived by her daughter Dr. Cathy Geisert and son Jon, four grandchildren and a sister. A private service will be held.
- Margaret reported on a letter from the Reverend Lemuel Garcia-Arroyo of the South Region Office of Ministry Engagement and Support of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) thanking St. Mark's for our One Great Hour of Sharing donation of \$1,796.00.

PASTOR'S REPORT - Tracy Daub

- Pastor Tracy shared her list of activities and administrative meetings she attended between June 17 and August 5, 2025. She will be on vacation for three weeks in August. Rev. David Fife will preach on August 17, and Rev. Stephanie Stahl Hamilton will preach on August 24 and August 31. Tracy will be back on September 2nd.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Jan Prinz reported on the committee's progress. As a part of the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP), they needed to identify a minimum and maximum salary. After reviewing salary information from Presbytery de Cristo, Bureau of Labor Statistics for Clergy, and St. Mark's budget line item for the pastor, the PNC presented their motion for the recommended salary range. This was passed by the Session.

MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES:

Congregational Care Team – Lynne Davies & Jim Cullum

- The Ice Cream Social on August 2 was a great success. Children and adults enjoyed games and making their own ice cream sundaes. The committee is making progress recruiting help for pastoral care.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Faith Formation Team – Rachael Eggebeen

- Rachael reported on possible Fall Adult Education courses including the spiritual practice of the labyrinth (our own Labyrinth has been restored by Richard Gray and volunteers), Racial Justice Study, and St. Mark's Liturgy and the Church Year.

Personnel Team – Becky Cook & Beth Carroll

- Becky reported the committee will begin staff performance reviews in the Fall. Becky will continue to work on the insurance training required to retain coverage.

Worship Team – Kevin Hainline & Gwyn Roske

- The organ repair progress was discussed. The choir will be coming back starting on August 31st. The committee is continuing to explore possible replacements for the chancel drapes.

Administration Team – Charles Ambrose

- Charlie reported that the new dishwasher has been installed in the kitchen. Paul Tuohy was appointed as the Vice Moderator.



Nicole & Joy Person-Rennell dancing during worship on August 10, with Pax Person-Rennell dancing/hiding In her mother's skirt

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 1| 1:00-2:00PM

LABOR DAY. Office closed.

Sept 2| 1:00-2:00PM

Personnel Committee.

Office Conference Room. All are welcome to attend.

Sept 2| 1:00-3:00PM

The weekly **Bridge group** meets in Calvin. All are welcome, beginners or experienced players.

Sept 3| 8:00-11:00AM

Iskashitaa's monthly **Refugee Garden Arts Program (RGAP)** meets in garden on the 2nd street side of the church.. All are welcome!

Sept 3| 8:30-9:30AM

Join us for **Midweek Manna**, a gathering for prayer and Bible study on the upcoming Sunday's preaching text, held in the office conference room (2nd Street side). All are welcome.

Sept 3| 6:00-8:00PM

Join the **Contemplative Community of Tucson** in Calvin Hall every Wednesday for prayer, a 20 minute moment of silence, and short biblical reflection.

Sept 3| 6:45-7:45PM

Restorative Yoga. All are welcome to stretch and connect with your body every Wednesday in Room F (2nd Street side).

Sept 4| 11AM-12:30PM

Book Club. Calvin Hall. Currently Reading: The Widows of Malabar Hill

Sept 7| After Worship

Responding to Current Times. Calvin Hall.

Sept 9| 1:00-3:00PM

Bridge group.

Sept 9| 4:00-5:00PM

Community & Global Engagement Committee.

Office Conference Room. All are welcome to attend.

Sept 10| 8:00-11:00AM

RGAP.

Sept 10| 8:30-9:30AM

Midweek Manna.

Sept 10| 4:30-5:30PM

Worship Committee. Office Conference Room. All are welcome to attend.

Sept 10| 6:00-8:00PM

Contemplative Community of Tucson.

Sept 10| 6:45-7:45PM

Restorative Yoga.

Sept 11| 10:00-11:00AM

Administration Committee. Office Conference Room. All are welcome to attend.

Sept 14| During Worship

Children's Church. Children In K-6 are welcome to join for a Bible story and craft!

Sept 14| After Worship

Sister Jose Hygiene Kit Making. Knox Room.

Sept 16| 1:00-3:00PM

Bridge group.

Sept 16| 7:00-9:00PM

St. Mark's Session September Meeting. Office Conference Room.

Sept 17| 8:00-11:00AM

RGAP.

Sept 17| 8:30-9:30AM

Midweek Manna.

Sept 17| 6:00-8:00PM

Contemplative Community of Tucson.

Sept 17| 6:45-7:45PM

Restorative Yoga.

Sept 18| 11AM-12:30PM

Book Club. Calvin Hall.

Sept 18| 8AM-1:30PM

TIHAN Poz Cafe. Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

Sept 23| 5AM-9:00PM

CD-07 Special Election Day. Knox Room (Polling Place)

Sept 23| 1:00-3:00PM

Bridge group.

Sept 23| 2:00-3:00PM

Congregational Care Committee. Office Conference Room. All are welcome to attend.

Sept 24| 8:00-11:00AM

RGAP.

Sept 24| 8:30-9:30AM

Midweek Manna.

Sept 24| 6:00-8:00PM

Contemplative Community of Tucson.

Sept 24| 6:45-7:45PM

Restorative Yoga.

Sept 28| After Worship

Big Coffee. Gather In the courtyard after worship for coffee, snacks, and conversation!

Sept 28| After Worship

Liturgical Calendar. Calvin.

Sept 28| 5:00-6:00PM

4th Sunday Supper All are welcome In the Knox Room/3rd Street side of the church for a neighborhood potluck.

CONTACT INFO

Ministry Teams

Administration

Charles Ambrose – fragglrock2@msn.com

Congregational Care

Jim Cullum – jcullum@jcams.com

Lynne Davies – LCSQRD@cox.net

Faith Formation

Rachael Eggebeen – edsrachael@gmail.com

Community & Global Engagement

Martha Osborne – martha.r.osborne@gmail.com

Jan Prinz – janeth60@gmail.com

Worship

Gwyn Roske – groske1@gmail.com

Kevin Hainline – kevinhainline@gmail.com

Robin Staples – robin.staples@cox.net

Personnel – personnel@stmarksaz.org

Beth Carroll

Becky Cook

Clerk of Session

Margaret Wilkie – wilkie.m.l.tuc@gmail.com

Staff

Transition Pastor

Tracy Daub – tracy@stmarksaz.org

Organist/Pianist, Director of Handbells

Jared Aragón – jared@stmarksaz.org

Director of Music

David Bracerros-Hamm – david@stmarksaz.org

Church Administrator

Gianina Scavone – gianina@stmarksaz.org

Director of Communications

Elaina Richards – elaina@stmarksaz.org

Facilities Coordinator

Michael Robinson – michael@stmarksaz.org





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Sunday Schedule

In-Person Worship: 10:30am **Livestream:**
www.YouTube.com/StMarksAZ

Find Us Online!

www.stmarksaz.org
Facebook.com/StMarksAZ
Instagram.com/StMarksAZ
Twitter.com/StMarksAZ